

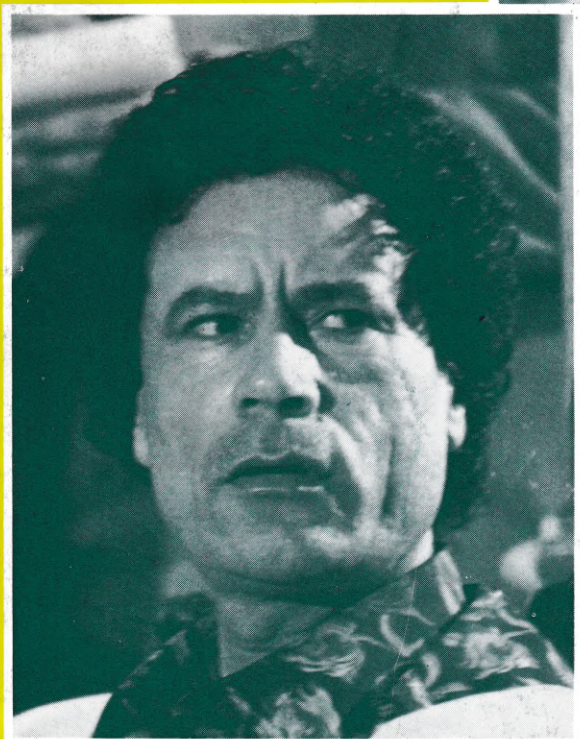
jamahiriya review

March 1983

Price 50p

Inside:
Economic
Issues dominate
Tripoli congress

New American threats against Libya



'All we are doing is trying to live freely and unify the Arab nation. We do not seek to colonise America, and America should not try to colonise us.





The Green March

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OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

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jamahiriya review

No 34

March 1983

□ **REAGAN'S THREAT:** The United States has renewed its provocations against the Libyan Jamahiriya, with AWACs and the aircraft carrier Nimitz sent to the edges of Libyan territory in the latest bid by the United States to destabilise Libya. An editorial comment appears on page 4, and the reactions of the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi are reported on page 9.

□ **PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY:** The 1983 session of the General People's Congress has been meeting in Tripoli, the Libyan capital. Members of Congress were faced with the difficult task of deciding development priorities against the background of the growing world economic crisis and uncertainty over oil price levels. Louis Eaks provides a three page report which starts on page 8.

□ **ARAB OPPOSITION:** Libya was the recent venue for a conference of Arab opposition parties and organisations, at which they heard the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi review the problems facing the Arab nation. In particular, he warned of the dangers posed by the United States and Israel, and the urgency with which the Arabs must mobilise their defence potential. A special review of the Libyan leader's speech starts on page 11.

□ **PEACE AND DISARMAMENT:** Libya's commitment to nuclear disarmament was firmly underlined by Muammer Qadhafi in a series of speeches during his recent visits to Bulgaria and Romania. A report begins on page 13, which also examines the trade and political agreements reached between the countries.

□ **HIDDEN TRUTH:** Libya continues to be subjected to hostile reporting by the international media. However, two recent reports from Reuters news agency provide a much different picture of modern Libya to those given by the American controlled media. On page 15, Alan George examines what Reuters had to say.

□ **ENERGY SEMINAR:** Experts in alternative energy sources recently held a four day seminar in Tripoli. A special correspondent looks at their recommendations on page 17.

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Subversion and Interference: Who is Guilty?

IF THE objectives of Washington's policy towards Libya were not such a serious threat to the Jamahiriya's independence, the latest American campaign against Libya has all the elements of farce. In mid-February an aircraft carrier was despatched towards Libyan waters in the Gulf of Sirte, and AWACs sent half-way round the world as evidence of the United States' seriousness in its claim that Libya was massing troops and aircraft along the Sudanese border in the prelude to a Libyan engineered coup d'état against General Numeiri.

Washington declares it has evidence that Libya is massing troops and equipment in the south for an imminent strike against Khartoum. Meanwhile, the Egyptian Chief of Staff declares there is no evidence of any such moves by the Libyans, and only two days before a senior West European diplomat assured an Italian journalist in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, that the Jamahiriya was not involved 'in any foreign adventures', adding that there was no evidence to suggest any were planned.

In Tripoli, the Libyan leader not only denied that the Jamahiriya had embarked on such a scheme, but a communique from the Libyan Armed Forces stressed that Libya does not even possess any planes with the capability and range to embark on a bombing raid on Khartoum, which the Americans claimed was Libya's plan.

To emphasise Libya's innocence, Muammer Qadhafi proposed that the Security Council should send a delegation to the area to see for themselves, and the world, the fact that Libya is innocent of Washington's allegations.

Many question marks hover over almost every aspect of the incident, and many questions may never be clearly answered. Nevertheless, one thing is certain: the whole American propaganda campaign, and the supporting US military action, is based on fraudulent claims and the routine lies which characterise America's presentation of the Jamahiriya and Libya's foreign policy.

What really provoked America's latest military adventurism and the reasons for its timing is difficult to determine. Is Reagan (whose films include 'Accidents Will Happen', 'Desperate Journey', 'Hellcats of the Navy', and 'The Killers') irritated with Libya's growing rapprochement with Western Europe, or is he angered with the clear call coming from the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi on the question of nuclear disarmament in Europe, and feels it necessary to make a new bid to isolate the Jamahiriya from international opinion? Or was the whole episode engineered to fly US troops into the area in an attempt not to intimidate Libya but the mass movement of opposition to the regime of General Numeiri in the Sudan? Or was it a hasty move to provide a smokescreen for Israel's efforts to consolidate its military occupation of the Lebanon?

Whatever the reasons, it little behoves the President of the United States to accuse Libya of interference in the affairs of other countries, and of conducting a campaign of subversion against regimes in the region in an attempt to threaten their independence. What regime is there in the region apart from the Jamahiriya which is independent from Washington's influence?

Egypt is firmly under American and Israeli control, and on their behalf Cairo's forces are used to prop up General Numeiri's regime. In alliance, the US, Egypt and Sudan are all involved in assisting the fanatical regime of Hissene Habre which, with their help, overthrew the OAU recognised regime of Goukouni Oueddei in Chad.

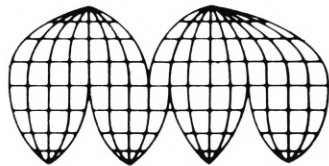
While Reagan makes his wild accusations against the Jamahiriya, attention is diverted from a circle of conspiracy in the region, of which Libya is the target, not the culprit. In January General Mubarak, the Egyptian President, flew to Washington for talks with Reagan and US leaders to co-ordinate policy in the Middle East. On 14th February, three days before the news broke of the American provocations in the area, Mubarak was in Aswan for talks with General Numeiri. In the previous week, General Vernon Walters, a Reagan envoy with CIA connections, was in Khartoum and US Assistant Secretary of Defence Francis West was in Cairo. Meanwhile, Numeiri and Habre held talks in the Sudanese capital.

Moreover, envoys of Chad's Habre recently visited Zaire for talks with the Zionist Defence Minister, and Butcher of Sabra and Shatila, to discuss Israeli military assistance to the Habre regime. Sharon is known to have visited the Egyptian-Libyan border area in the past to review plans for a military strike against the Jamahiriya. No doubt soon he, or his successor as Defence Minister, will be patrolling Libya's southern border.

Hence, while an increasingly pathetic international press repeats Reagan's ludicrous claims against Libya like a record with the needle stuck, an arc of aggression is being forged on the Jamahiriya's eastern and southern borders, while the US fleet manoeuvres in the Mediterranean off the northern coastline. The strategy of encircling the Jamahiriya, planned by Alexander Haig when Secretary of State, moves on a stage further while the press is looking for Libyan troops in the desert with about as much chance of success as they had in tracking down the non-existent Libyan hit-squads which the CIA assured the world were hot on the trail of Reagan last year.

Muammer Qadhafi made a pertinent observation when he addressed the General People's Congress in Tripoli on 17th February. He reminded the Libyan people that it was America which had come to Libya's shore with threats and provocations, rather than the other way round.

Of course, one thing is certain. These American provocations will continue. Washington is determined to crush the progressive stand taken by revolutionary Libya against American and Zionist policy in the region. With other Arab regimes eager to prostrate themselves before the American President, and hail his so-called peace plan, Libya and its revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi reject any sell-out of Arab rights in Palestine and the surrender to Zionist-American supremacy in the Arab homeland which the Reagan plan seeks to secure. It is the duty of all people who seek peace and justice in the world to support Libya's stand, and to condemn Washington's dangerous war games in the Middle East.



Kreisky: 'It is better to talk'

THE AUSTRIAN Chancellor has chided the American President Ronald Reagan over his hostile stance towards the Jamahiriya. Dr Bruno Kreisky's remarks, published in *Time* magazine (14th February), came on the eve of his arrival in Washington for talks with American leaders. The magazine pointed out the differences in foreign policy between the two leaders, and mentioned the fact that Kreisky last year hosted a visit to Austria by Muammer Qadhafi.

Dr Kreisky told *Time*: 'Americans like to do business with Libya, but they say, "Mr Qadhafi, we don't want to say hello to you". I had an opportunity to deal with Qadhafi, and I could reach some solutions. It is much better to be on speaking terms with someone than not to be.

British Minister signs co-operation agreement in Tripoli

A ONE week visit to the Jamahiriya by Britain's Minister of State for Health, Mr Kenneth Clark ended on 6th February with the initialling of a wide-ranging agreement on health and welfare, aimed at increasing co-operation between Britain and Libya.

A joint project for the construction and equipping of two 1,200 bed hospitals for Tripoli and Benghazi, was one of the subjects discussed by Mr Clark during talks with Libya's Social Security Secretary, and which suggests that 1983 could see a development of trading links between the two countries.

Mr Clark had arrived in Tripoli on 30th January and, according to the Jamahiriya News Agency, JANA, he said that his visit was designed to bolster co-operation between the Libyan Arab and British peoples, especially in the field of health.

During his stay, the British Minister held talks with the Secretaries of Health, Social Security, Education and Heavy Industry.

Medical education, development of medical curricula, and the exchange of expertise in scientific specialisations and training of Libyan students were amongst the items reviewed during a meeting

between Mr Clark and the Jamahiriya's Health Secretary. The 31st January meeting also dealt with the development of co-operation between Libya and British universities in the medical fields.

In his talks with Libya's Social Security Secretary, Mr Clark discussed pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, as well as medical projects and the exchange of expertise in higher medical specialisations.

During his stay, Mr Clark was given the opportunity to see some of the facilities now available in the medical field to the Jamahiriya's citizens, and which offer examples of the achievements of the Revolution's development programme.

These included the Dhamani Health Complex in Tripoli, and the Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped in Zanzour, where he toured the various departments, which include a diagnosis clinic, physiotherapy clinic, guidance and social and psychiatric services, in addition to sports grounds and facilities for cultural activities and social entertainment. Mr Clark also visited Tripoli's new hospital at Sidi Misry, and the College of Medicine at the Al Fateh University.

The British Minister was also given the opportunity to tour the ancient ruins of the Roman City at Leptis Magna (Libda) on the Mediterranean coast east of Tripoli.

The agreement initialled by Mr Clark and Health Secretary Dr Murad Lanqi, calls for co-operation in medicines, medical equipment, the implementation of health projects, bilateral contacts on food safety and consultations with regard to the comprehensive health programme and other related projects in the Jamahiriya.

It also provides for co-operation in health manpower and medical teaching and training of graduate doctors, technicians and nursing staff. An exchange of expertise is proposed in high health education through direct contacts between both countries and the development of scientific research in medicine in Libya.

Call for Arab-Iranian alliance

AMERICAN HOPES that Syria might be forced into backing Iraq's war against Iran, and supporting President Reagan's proposals for a settlement to the Palestine question, received a severe upset in late January. A joint communique issued jointly by Syria, Iran and Libya made clear that American policy in the region, including Washington's support for Iraq's invasion of Iran, was totally unacceptable to the three countries.

Western observers saw the communique, which followed two days of talks between the Syrian and Iranian Foreign Ministers and the Jamahiriya's Secretary of Justice, as a major set-back for US strategy in the region.

Issued simultaneously in Tripoli, Damascus and Tehran on 23rd January, the communique pledged support for Lebanese resistance to the Israeli occupation forces, and condemned any moves to bring Arab governments into the Camp David process. Moreover, they deplored efforts to return Egypt to the ranks of the Arab League — a

move which Iraq and other Arab states have been urging.

The three parties expressed full backing for the PLO in its struggle to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and condemned Arab pressures on the PLO to abandon its role as representative of the Palestinians to Jordan's King Hussein.

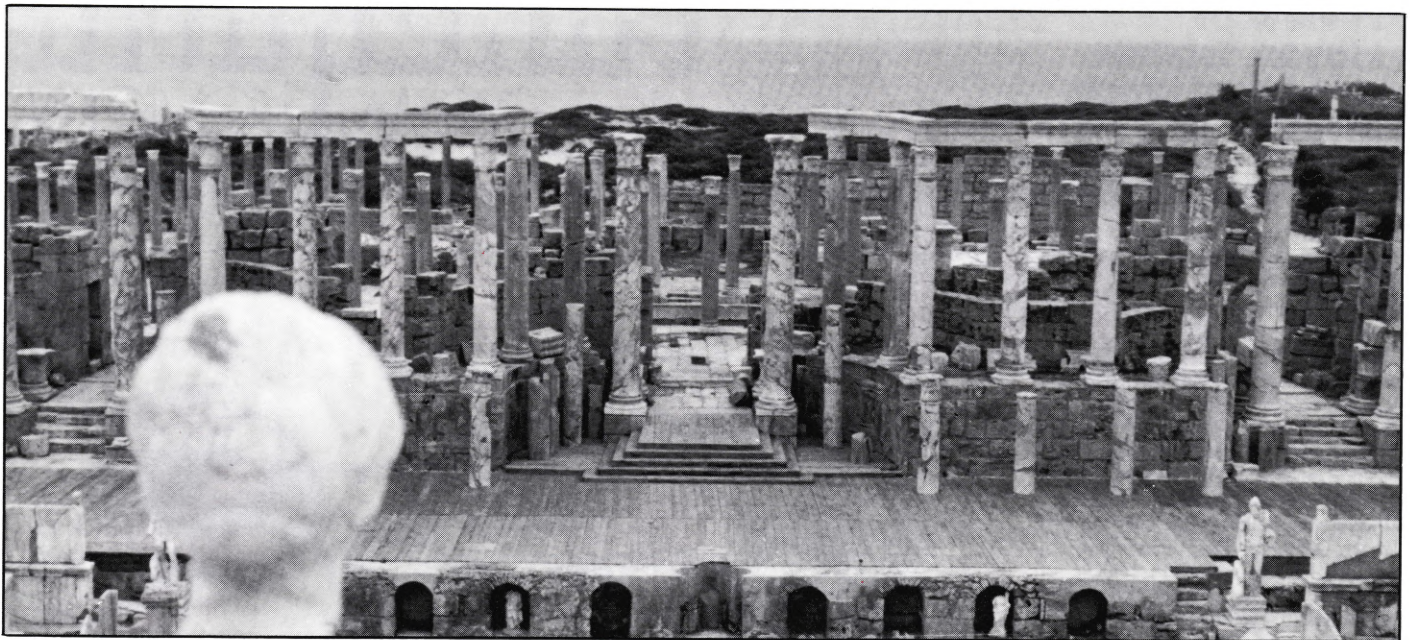
Arab regimes are concerned by the strength of the alliance which is campaigning against any US military presence in the region, and posing direct opposition to current American strategy. The communique stressed that Iran's place was with progressive Arabs, and called for Tehran to be admitted to the ranks of the Steadfastness Front, the grouping of Arab states, including the PLO, which opposes partial settlements and any compromise on the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

America had been confident that financial pressures could be exerted on Damascus by Washington's allies amongst the Arab oil producing states to force Syria into switching its allegiance to Iraq. The tripartite talks and subsequent communique make clear that Syria will not lightly abandon its stand.

Security Council adopts Arabic

ARABIC BECAME one of the official languages within the UN this year. There was similar acceptance in the General Assembly and UN agencies some years ago, following pressure from the Jamahiriya, which sought to secure greater





Leptis Magna joins list of World Heritage

► recognition for Arabic as a major world language. Shortly after the 1969 Revolution, Libya required all foreign passports to include details of the bearer in Arabic, and despite initial reluctance from the major powers, it soon became standard practice in passports for travellers wishing to visit the Jamahiriya.

US breakfast TV told 'relations will improve'

THE UNITED States is softening its hostility towards the Jamahiriya, the Libyan leader suggested in a live satellite link-up with the 'Today' show on America's NBC network in early January. 'I think the situation now is not very bad like it was, and I hope it will be improving in the future,' Muammer Qadhafi told breakfast television viewers.

'We always exert ourselves the utmost to improve our relations with the United States of America, but America, Reagan in particular, refuses to improve this relationship for the benefit of our two peoples,' he pointed out.

The Libyan leader's live appearance provided an opportunity for Qadhafi to overcome what he described as Zionist influence in the American media. 'America is completely under the influence of Zionism, and Zionism will destroy the interests of the American people. All of us are victims of Zionism... Americans, Jews and Arabs,' he warned.

Questioned about Libya's arms purchases from the Soviet Union, he denied reports that the Jamahiriya spends \$2 billion a year on weapons. 'No, it is not true,' he said. 'We buy very few weapons. It is part

of the Zionist propaganda against us to defame our reputation.'

He said Libya needed to buy weapons, not to supply to revolutionary or terrorist groups abroad, but because Libya plans to arm its people. 'If we have a million or two millions citizens, they will be armed to defend their independence and their territory. We buy tanks and artillery and aircraft for our people to defend themselves. It is impossible to give such weapons to guerrillas or terrorist groups,' he explained.

However, Libya would continue to support the legitimate liberation struggles such as those of the Palestinian and Namibian people, he added.

Unique examples amongst archaeological discoveries

THE DEPARTMENT of Antiquities in Tripoli has announced the discovery of archaeological sites in the Silin region, 10 km west of the town of Khums. The sites, described as 'highly important', include a villa of 1,900 square metres dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The villa, which is one of the largest of its kind of this period so far found, contains an important group of rare mosaics depicting geometric designs and some mural paintings.

The Department says international archaeologists have confirmed that the mosaic designs are a school in their own right, and are more developed than the Alexandria and other ancient schools. The murals are considered a unique example of the period and are similar in their human depictions to the style of 'round heads' used on a wide scale

between 3000 and 9000 BC in south-west Libya's Acacus and Matkhanoush mountains.

Meanwhile, it is reported that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee has decided to include the three Libyan cities of Shahat, Sebratha and Greater Libda (Leptis Magna) on the List of World Heritage. The Archaeology Department in Tripoli has said the Jamahiriya will exert concerted efforts in future conferences to enter the rest of the country's archaeological sites on the World Heritage List.

Libya's concern for the disabled 'sets example'

THE NATIONAL Association of Disabled Writers in Britain and the Secretary-General of the International Rehabilitation Organisation (IRO) have both expressed praise for the pioneering role which Libya has taken in caring for the country's citizens.

The latest *Newsletter of the National Association of Disabled Writers* in Britain criticises cut-backs in spending on health services in the United Kingdom, and argues that the Westminster government 'could do worse than learn from our Libyan brothers, who, thanks to Colonel Qadhafi, have spend millions of pounds to ensure that Libya's disabled have the very best care and most modern facilities that money can buy'.

'Very few countries in the world have provided for their disabled to the extent that Libya has done,' the article says. 'Most countries either ignore their disabled completely or rely on charities to provide their essential needs. In contrast, Libya has fully recognised her duty towards her less fortunate citizens, and as a

matter of priority has done the very best for them.'

Similar recognition of Libya's activities in this field was voiced by the IRO Secretary General who arrived in Tripoli on 22nd January. Praising the role played in the Jamahiriya in proposing that 1981 should be designated UN International Year of the Disabled, he said: 'The world salutes the Jamahiriya for this noble initiative and its humanitarian action for realising the happiness of the disabled.'

A recent survey of facilities for the disabled in Libya, published in *Jamahiriya Review*, showed that in Tripoli and Benghazi alone the Health Secretariat had invested over \$102million on rehabilitation and vocational training centres.

In January, the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi urged the Basic People's Congresses to support measures aimed at expanding employment for the disabled.

Support for Sri Lanka's welfare programme

LIBYA IS providing support for Sri Lanka's health programme and forging links with the island's Muslim community. In early January, a Libyan medical team, including doctors, held talks with Sri Lanka's Minister of Communications and Religious Affairs. JANA said their presence was part of a programme of medical assistance being provided to the country. The agency reported that the team had also visited the Maldives to offer medical assistance.

One week later, the Sri Lankan minister held talks with the Secretary General of the Tripoli-based International Council of the Islamic Call, Dr Mohamed Ahmad al

Sharif. As well as being briefed on the situation of Sri Lanka's Muslim community, Dr Sharif also visited the Muslim Orphanage in Colombo.

Cultural Festival In Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR was the venue of a Libyan Cultural Festival which opened in the Malaysian capital on 18th January, offering a wide programme of cultural events portraying the heritage and achievements of the Jamahiriya.

The internationally acclaimed feature film of the life and struggle of the Libyan resistance fighter Omar Mukhtar was shown throughout the week, while on stage at the National University the Libyan Arab Folklore Troupe presented performances of their award winning programme of traditional Libyan folklore dances and music.

Other features of the Cultural Festival included a seminar, attended by members of Tripoli's Al Fateh University and the National University of Kuala Lumpur, and a book exhibition.

Events were also staged in six Malaysian provinces.

Israel sees Zaire as 'open door to Africa'

THE IMPLICATIONS of the January visit to Zaire by the Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon are being viewed with a degree of concern in Africa which goes far beyond the OAU's anger that Zaire should have broken ranks and restored diplomatic links with the Zionist state, writes Louis Eaks.

Israel's renewed involvement in African affairs, and the relationship with Zaire, reflects a new strategy in the United States. There are signs that both the Libyan Jamahiriya and Angola may become targets of Zionist 'advisors' in Africa.

Zaire announced plans to resume its links with Israel, broken in 1974, after the Reagan administration faced increasing opposition in Congress to continued US aid to a regime which has been widely and repeatedly condemned for its corruption and poor human rights record. To avoid further congressional blocks on military and economic support for the beleaguered Mobuto regime, Washington has switched its tactics, and will now channel support for Zaire through Israel.

In fact, Mobuto's survival so far is due in part to an earlier Sharon visit in 1981, when Israel agreed to help set up a presidential guard with Israeli advisers. A report on Israel radio on 21st January disclosed that



Libyan Arab Folklore Troupe take Libyan culture to the world.

the Zionist officers 'acted not only as superior officers giving orders, but became part of the Zairean units'.

Sharon was accompanied on his five day visit by a 90-strong entourage, including two generals. The result was a military co-operation agreement, signed by Israel and Zaire. The agreement, according to Israel radio, was based 'on a strategic survey compiled by the (Israeli) Defence Minister's National Security Adviser, Maj-Gen Avraham Tamir'. The immediate benefit to Mobuto will be a re-organisation of his army, and the presence of Israeli advisers to defend his regime from revolutionary uprising, which Mobuto fears is imminent. However, the Zionist role will be a much wider one. This is a view shared by several African states and western observers.

Richard Hall, Africa correspondent of the Lonrho owned *Observer* newspaper in London warned on 23rd January: 'The Israeli-run force will create new tensions in the region.' He added that 'the far-reaching agreements which they have reached have electrified southern Africa'. Hall reminded readers, 'The close military liaison between Israel and South Africa is no secret.'

President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola has reason to be concerned by the Zionists' return to Africa. Hundreds of Israeli experts will be returning to Zaire, according to Richard Hall, who recalls earlier

support given by Israel to the Zaire based guerrilla forces of Holden Roberto, brother-in-law of Mobuto. Israel radio has confirmed that Sharon and Mobuto discussed Israel's help in setting up 'Nahal footholds' which it said were 'planned for Zaire's long south-eastern border' adjoining Angola. Nahal settlements is the term given to para-military establishments in occupied Palestine. Under the guise of agricultural projects, they are an integral part of Israel's military system.

Increased Israeli support is predicted for the UNITA forces of Jonas Savimbi, which are currently staging guerrilla and sabotage raids into Angola. Hall believes these raids have been masterminded by South African intelligence, trained in Israeli techniques. Angola believes the Israelis are already directly involved.

In addition, the prospects of direct Israeli involvement in a destabilisation campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriya are now much greater as a consequence of Sharon's visit to Zaire. 'Reliable sources' have been quoted by *Agence France Presse* as revealing that the Israeli Defence Minister also held talks in Kinshasa with government representatives from Chad. The newly installed regime of Hissene Habre is facing strong opposition from Goukouni Oueddei and other Chadians. An Israeli presence in Chad, with the same mandate as in

Zaire, would help to strengthen and protect the fragile Habre regime.

At the same time it gives Israeli military personnel direct access to the Jamahiriya's southern border, and could provide a base for future Zionist attacks on Libya.

Sharon's aides refused to confirm or deny that a meeting with a Chadian envoy had taken place, but told AFP that in Israel's view Zaire is 'an open door to Africa'.

International symposium on Green Book

FOLLOWING LAST December's international seminar in Ghana on Muammer Qadhafi's *Green Book*, preparations are now taking place in the Libyan capital for a further international symposium which will be staged in the Jamahiriya from 7-15th April. The event is being organised by the International Green Book Research Institute in Tripoli.

The *Green Book* was written by the Libyan leader to explain the principles of the Third Universal Theory, which guide the Al Fateh Revolution. In three parts, it deals with political, economic and social problems facing the world. It charts a solution which proposes an alternative system to capitalism and communism.



Policies are discussed and decided at the General People's Congress

Economic issues dominate Tripoli Congress

FROM ACROSS the vast territory of the Jamahiriya, members of the General People's Congress arrived in the Libyan capital for the 1983 session which opened in Tripoli on 12th February. As the city basked in the Spring sunshine, there was an air of excitement as the Congress began its 8th session since the establishment of the Jamahiriya at the Sebha Congress in March 1977.

The People's Hall was quickly filled with Congress members, who were able to enjoy the facilities of the recently refurbished conference centre. Many western political forums would envy the facility in each seat which provides a microphone, earphones for simultaneous translation, and a pull-out working surface on which to write notes or rest Congress papers.

The Congress comprises generally two members from each of the Basic People's Congresses in the Jamahiriya (normally the Secretary and Assistant-Secretary), along with the Secretaries of the various vocational, labour and social organisations, members of the General People's Committee and the various Secretaries (the position in the Jamahiriya's political system which replaced the traditional post of Minister). Also present in the gallery were Secretaries from the Jamahiriya's Bureaux around the world, and

WITH A deepening world economic recession and uncertainty in international oil markets, Libya's General People's Congress has been meeting to decide the political, economic and social priorities for the year. Louis Eaks was in Tripoli for the Congress and provides this report

foreign diplomats, press and representatives from foreign countries and liberation movements.

It was not necessary for Libyans to travel to Tripoli or visit the People's Hall to follow the deliberations of the Congress. Throughout the Jamahiriya families were able to follow the sessions on television and radio, thanks to the live transmissions provided by the Jamahiriya's broadcasting service.

In an opening speech the Secretary of the General People's Congress referred to the high turn-out which had characterised this year's meetings of the Basic

People's Congresses, which had spent four weeks in deliberations to determine the social, economic and political strategy of the Jamahiriya. The BPCs, he pointed out, highlighted the 'exercise of direct democracy' which is at the heart of the *jamahiri* system.

He paid tribute to Muammer Qadhafi's leadership in establishing Libya's democracy. 'The massive attendance at the Basic People's Congresses' positive and constructive meetings reveals the Libyan people's belief in the people's authority, and the Leader's ideology in words and practice,' he declared.

However, once the Congress got underway, it turned its attention to economic issues which dominated discussion throughout the week. The Congress was meeting against the background of the continuing world economic recession and uncertainty in the international oil market, and Libyans were reminded that development strategy and the Jamahiriya's economic policy had to be decided with these issues in mind.

Budgets cut

In particular, Congress reviewed the progress during the past two years, and plans for 1983, as Libya enters the third year of the current 1981-85 five year Transformation Plan.

The Secretary of the GPC told the meeting that the rate of development in 1981 had been 9.2 per cent, with new development contracts totalling 5,000 million dinars. And he warned, '1982 witnessed continued international economic developments and a deterioration in the oil market, characterised by a continued fall in demand and pressure on prices which led to a reduction in the sales and prices set by OPEC.' Libya, he said, 'suffered a reduction in prices of no less than 15 per cent coupled with a considerable reduction in the volume of exports, despite an attempt to protect the official prices [of oil].'

Because of this, the Secretary confirmed, the 1982 transformation budget at 2,600 million dinars was 13 per cent lower than for 1981.

He continued, 'Despite difficulties in the financial year 1982, we succeeded in realising an investment volume which can be termed normal, and realised rates of development in the production sectors which are nearer to our objectives.'

Disclosing the percentage rates of development for the various sectors, the Secretary referred to a 6.6 rate in agriculture, forestry and fish processing, 21.4 in industries, 16.1 in electricity, 11.9 in public services excluding education and health, 10.1 in health, 7 in education.

However, he went on to warn that budget levels had to be realistic and reflect the broader economic situation in the world. 'The recent developments in the oil market and the continued world economic recession throughout 1983 means that the original figure proposed for

Facing the American threat

AS THE world awoke to news of fresh American military schemes against Libya, in Tripoli Muammar Qadhafi arrived to a rousing reception from the General People's Congress on 17th February.

It was a sunny Thursday morning, and neither Qadhafi nor Libyan citizens out and about in the streets of the capital were showing any concern that President Reagan was once again warmongering in the region. AWACs had reportedly landed in Egypt, and the USS Nimitz was moving towards Libyan waters, but these were not Qadhafi's priorities when he appeared before Congress. His comments on the American President's interference in the Arab homeland lasted only a few minutes, and came towards the end of a two hour review of the Congress's debates.

Newsweek claims the Libyan leader 'flashed hot and cold', which hardly seems to be an accurate description of Qadhafi's traditionally relaxed style which nothing disturbed throughout his speech, delivered in a calm manner, his voice never raised.

When he did finally comment on the American threat on Libya's borders, it was in the context of the debates on mobilisation for military training in Libya. Despite Qadhafi's personal exhortation to mass mobilisation, the Basic People's Congresses had shown reluctance to agree that this should include women. It was clear that the Libyan leader disapproved this sexual discrimination still prevailing amongst the male population. However, he told Congress, 'No one can force the people's congresses to take any other decision.'

However, 'the defence of the country is an unquestionable issue,' he said. 'You have to defend yourselves. That is imposed by the challenges that exist whether you like it or not. None of us has been the cause of it. All we are trying to do is live freely and work to unify the (Arab) nation. We do not seek to colonise America, and America should not colonise us.'

American intervention in the Gulf of Sirte meant American intervention in Libya, because the Gulf of Sirte 'is an indivisible part of Libya', he explained. The Libyan people would not allow America or any other country, not even



US President Reagan

the Soviet Union with whom they have friendly relations, to enter the Gulf of Sirte.

Opening his speech, Qadhafi praised the level of debate in the Congress and the high attendance at the previous Basic People's Congresses. 'The signs this year indicate the successful accomplishment of the enterprise rather than otherwise,' he said. 'Next year will prove still better and so on. It is important for the masses to adhere to the powers they have acquired and use them wisely.'

It was time, he went on, to provide purpose built halls for the BPCs, 'respectable halls equipped with all the technical facilities to enable members to discuss their matters in a pleasant atmosphere', rather than in schools, clubs or the open air.

He also proposed that the BPCs and the GPC should form specialist committees, a kind of watch-dog committee to question members of the existing people's committees which look after the various sectors such as education, housing and utilities.

The Jamahiriya wanted to move towards a system of 'comprehensive self-management', Qadhafi said, but BPC proposals for the administrative budget 'did not adhere to any scientific criterion' and were at best 'haphazard estimates'. The BPCs, he added,

'ought to rely on scientific methods and be prepared to use computers'.

Turning to the world economic crisis, he spoke of the high levels of unemployment in the industrialised countries, and warned that Libya had to be more self-reliant and less dependent on a foreign labour force. The western industrialised countries, and the socialist states were able to confront the economic crisis because they were 'highly disciplined societies' while 'the developing countries lack this discipline', he warned. 'If this year we have been able to reach a high level of awareness and discipline, we will be successful in our economic measures,' he added.

If Libyans were prepared to embark on collective work in vital services such as cleaning streets, cities and educational institutions, said Qadhafi, then the foreign labour force would be cut to the benefit of the economy. He also questioned 'trivial posts carrying high salaries' which he described as 'unproductive and beyond accountability and discipline'. There should be a review of such posts, as well as a check on employees who leave their offices or work place during working hours. Revolutionary and traffic committees should carry out spot checks, he proposed.

The Libyan leader also renewed his call for greater freedom for women. Attempts to prevent women 'from practising people's authority and asserting their rights in life' were described as 'illogical and deficient in this era and in this jamahiri society', he declared.

Returning to 'the dirty conspiracies devised by America', Muammar Qadhafi stressed that economic strength assured moral and political capabilities. As with Nasser's Revolution before, the United States would plot and scheme to bring down the Libyan Revolution and return Libya to American patronage.

'We should remain steadfast and politically and psychologically strong to demonstrate to the world that such schemes do not intimidate or subjugate us to US influence,' he told Congress. 'The regime is a people's regime. The Libyan people are free. We are people who refuse to bargain over our dignity.'

revenues will be hard to reach,' he told Congress. '1983 begins with total contracts valued at 6,000 million dinars, and is characterised by low demand for oil and lower prices.'

Prudent trimming

Subsequently, the Planning Secretary addressed Congress to clarify the outlines of the 1983 transformation budget.

He said that on a time factor basis, the budget covers 60 per cent of the plan's total time span. This meant that a large part of the projects currently being implemented would be realised during 1983. 'Moreover,' he continued, 'a considerable proportion of projects that started during the current 1981-82 plan will be completed with basic projects such as iron and steel.'

He made clear that it would be prudent to trim expenditures in the current year, and asked Congress to review the proposals coming from the Basic People's Congresses and the People's Committees which proposed a budget for the transformation plan this year of 4.442 billion dinars, which he pointed out equalled spending in 1981 and 1982 combined, and exceeded 'the national

► economy's development and absorptive capacities'.

The Planning Secretary argued that 'budgetary allocations should take into consideration the plan's goals and strategies, with stress being laid on sectoral and situational balance'. He continued, 'The obligations of the 6.7 billion dinars 1983 budget constitute a burden on resources. Therefore, during the allocation of funds on programmes and projects in every sector, consideration was given to the completion of schedules of various projects, with priority given to projects that are near completion, and all other supporting projects that have started already.'

He added, 'Oil revenues still constitute the basic source for financing the transformation budget. Therefore, due consideration was given during the estimation of the budget's revenues to current conditions on the world oil market, including production and pricing projections.'

Moreover, he continued, 'In realisation of the Plan's goals which call for self-sufficiency throughout the national economy, the possibilities of mobilising available resources were studied in an effort to increase development financing and boost budgetary resources in general. This can be done by the investment of savings and the surplus funds of industrial, financial and banking institutions with due regard given to the achievement of a balance between available resources and the implementation and absorptive capacities of the national economy. Such action would achieve a high degree of prudence in investment and the proper utilization of resources, whether generated by oil or other sectors.'

The Planning Secretary warned, 'These resources are expected to cover part of the commitments for projects which have started already, but will not allow for entering into contracts for new projects except in the narrowest sense.'

The 1983 Transformation budget provides for a maximum of LD 2.37 billion, compared to LD 2.1 billion last year, of which 33.8 per cent will go towards light and heavy industries and absorb LD 495 million, while agriculture and marine transport and communications are also amongst the major investment sectors (see inset table).

New industries

The Planning Secretary said the implementation of the Transformation Plan's investment programme would lead to 'the improvement of productivity and increase production levels and capacity in economic and social levels.' The investment programme calls for the operation of cement and tar industries, increasing the productivity of export industries, such as aluminium, urea, methanol, the products of the Abu Kammash Industrial Complex. It also calls for the start of production at new projects such as the two cement factories at Al Fatayey and Zleiten,

Proposed 1983 Development Budget

Sector	Allocation (Million dinars)
Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation	295.5
Light industries	95.0
Heavy industries	400.0
Oil and gas exploitation	30.0
Electricity	200.0
Education	140.0
Information and Culture	15.0
Manpower Resources	10.0
Health	70.0
Social Security	15.0
Mass sports	15.0
Housing	200.0
Installations	215.0
Marine Transport and Communications	310.0
Economy	60.0
Planning	12.0
Reserve Fund	287.5
TOTAL	2,370.0

the petrochemicals complex and refinery at Ras Lanouf, the carpet factory at Bani Walid and a new tyre factory.

As a consequence of these emerging new industries, and progress in the agricultural and other sectors, the Gross Domestic Product and non-oil related economic activities are predicted to rise from LD 3.6 million in 1980 to LD 4.1 million in 1983 at constant 1980 prices, representing a 5.5 per cent annual growth, which the Secretary of Planning described as 'satisfactory in light of prevailing world economic conditions'.

However, the Planning Secretary proposed a series of measures to strengthen the economy. He stressed:

- The need to find investment sources or reduce consumer spending in order to release some resources for redirection to the Plan's projects;
- Contractual obligations for new projects in the 1983 Plan should not be entered into except in strategic projects, with priority for projects already being carried out, and in particular those nearing completion;
- Import and Distribution companies should be established and operate productive projects especially in the industrial sector, financed internally and through specialised and commercial banks;
- Maximum utilization of existing production capacity;
- Economies including cuts in administrative spending, and reducing reliance on foreign manpower;
- Restrictions on imported consumer goods, with the exception of goods used in production, spare parts and durable goods.

In his report to Congress the Health Secretary said that 'health standards are

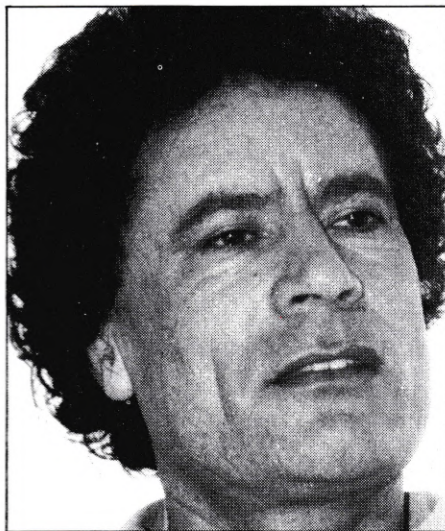
rising' as a consequence of the expanding services in the welfare service. However, although facilities have been greatly improved under successive development programmes, the Secretary disclosed that LD 20 million had been spent last year in medical expenses for Libyan patients receiving treatment overseas.

Amnesty

Although economic issues appeared to dominate the Congress debates, there was a wide range of other matters on the agenda. Those termed 'enemies of the Revolution' were offered a period of amnesty to return to Libya, and it was evident that few Basic People's Congresses favoured any serious form of retaliation against such dissidents, although those guilty of specific crimes could be charged and put on trial if they refuse to return.

Foreign affairs were also covered but in such general terms that in his address to congress Muammer Qadhafi noted that the Congress had set no firm guidelines for the Foreign Liaison Secretariat in the coming year. Foreign Secretary Abdelati Ubeidi stressed to Congress the Jamahiriya's commitment to 'exerting all possible efforts for further unionist meetings with the brothers in Syria, Algeria and Democratic Yemen'. He added that 'such meetings will eventually lead, through joint economic, political and cultural programmes, to a real unionist action'. Joint Arab action was urged to deal with the continuing threat to the Arab nation posed by the Zionists and the United States. Libya would continue its efforts to secure an Arab summit to discuss joint defence measures, as well as seeking to find an early end to the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Critical situation facing the Arab nation



TWO HUNDRED and fifty opposition groups from across the Arab homeland convened in the Libyan capital in early February to listen to a review of the state of the Arab nation from Muammar Qadhafi. Having failed on every count to respond to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and subsequent political events in the area, their task was to prove themselves worthy of the name 'opposition'.

ARAB OPPOSITION parties and movements have been challenged to prove that they are really capable of mobilising Arab opinion on the major issues of the day. The challenge came in a bitterly frank review of the state of the Arab nation by Libya's revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi. He mocked his audience of 350, representing 250 organisations from various parts of the Arab world, and asked whether they were not in fact part of the Arab establishment, permitted to exist by the various regimes as a safety valve for public opinion.

However, despite his obvious disillusionment with the past performances of Arab opposition groups, reinforced by their failure to force the Arab world to go to the aid of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance during last June's Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Qadhafi argued that the crisis now facing the Arab world demanded that he address them in an attempt to confront the continuing threat to Arab independence posed by the alliance of Israel and the United States.

The Libyan leader's speech was blunt and frank. In characteristic Qadhafi style, he did not moderate his words for fear of offending his guests. His speech provided a penetrating review of the situation which has emerged in the Middle East since last June.

According to his opening remarks, the Tripoli meeting was essentially composed of constitutional and legitimate opposition parties, recognised as lawful under the constitutions of their respective countries. 'Undoubtedly, there is a secret opposition in the Arab world, but this is a different issue,' he remarked.

He urged his audience to put national (pan Arab) interests before those of regional or separatist (state) activities.

His audience was told that although 'it might seem greatly in contradiction with the call for this meeting', the fact was that 'in the battle of Beirut, the Arab regimes, opposition, military and popular capabilities have been burnt, and with them all the theories upon which the Arab regimes and the opposition movements are based, including the ideology of the Palestinian Resistance from its Left to its Right.'

'In the battle of Beirut, all tactics, theories and beliefs of the Palestinian Resistance, the Arab opposition, and the Arab ruling political regimes, have been burnt to ashes. Burnt by the bombs which set Beirut on fire,' he declared.

We only watched

'None of the Arab Heads of State can raise their heads. No one can say he cares for the Arab nation, or even say he has been burnt in the battle of Beirut,' the Libyan leader added. 'Beirut has been burnt alone, while we all were watching as if watching a bonfire at a scout camp. The shells fell on the houses and Palestinian camps in Lebanon while the Arab nation thought it was listening to a symphony.'

There were no grounds for the opposition movements to feel satisfied, the Libyan leader argued. Their failure was no less obvious. Qadhafi pointed out, 'There were no demonstrations or sit-in movements

putting pressure for participation in the battle. There were only fifty Libyan students, boys and girls, who launched a sit-in in the Tripoli International Airport, with about twenty students from Lebanon, and called to go to battle.'

The Libyan leader called for a massive mobilisation of Arab opposition to the present status quo throughout the region. Civil disobedience, without resort to violence on a wide scale, was needed to force Arab regimes to change their policies or make way for new governments.

Egypt remained the key to Arab defence strategy, and the need to pull the Cairo regime back from its treaties with Israel remained a priority, Qadhafi explained. Yet,

it was clear that the Egyptian opposition had failed to mobilise the widespread popular discontent with the policies pursued by the government.

Muammar Qadhafi stressed the importance of finding the best non-violent way to pull Egypt out of the Camp David process. 'We do not call for violence. It is enough for us to see the Egyptians take to the streets and openly announce that if the Israelis come they will resist them. Violence and assassinations are not the means to create new conditions, but popular opposition is capable of making the appropriate change,' the Libyan leader explained.

The Libyan Revolution had been non-violent and bloodless. On the other hand the assassination of President Sadat 'has not changed anything in Egypt,' he pointed out.

Diversionsary wars

Similarly, the Moroccan opposition parties had failed to stop the Rabat regime from pursuing policies in accord with Egypt. Sadat had visited Morocco, as had the Zionist leader Shimon Peres. In fact, instead of mobilising his forces for the defence of the Arab nation from the Zionist threat, King Hassan had put his meagre resources into a colonialist war in the Western Sahara.

'What is happening now in the Western Sahara is compensation for King Hassan's impotence in solving the Moroccan people's basic problems and his failure in confronting the Arab nation's enemy,' Qadhafi argued.

At the other end of the Arab nation, Iraq had chosen to launch a war against Iran, and again divert the Arabs' resources to battles other than against the real enemy. Examining the role of the Iraqi opposition, he asked where it had been when Saddam Hussein signed the Algiers agreement with the Shah, giving Iran the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Why, he asked, was the same Saddam Hussein now waging war against revolutionary Iran to regain the waterway.

The Libyan leader explained, 'I don't oppose Saddam Hussein, but I am against anyone fighting the revolution in Iran, for political and revolutionary reasons. This revolution is one that is opposed to America and Zionism. For the first time, after the success of the revolution, Iranian oil was cut off from South Africa and the Israelis. How can we fight the revolution which made Iran side with the Arabs in the battle against Zionism and imperialism? This is a crime.'

The Libyan leader's speech was made against the background of the recent tripartite communique between the Jamahiriya, Syria and Iran, which stressed Syrian and Libyan support for Iran in the Gulf war, and declared the three countries rejection of the peace plans proposed by the Fez Arab summit, and the Reagan administration, both of which entail Arab recognition of the state of Israel in occupied Arab Palestine. The communique has been criticised by Iraq and other Gulf states, and the Libyan leader responded, asking, 'How could Arabs stand by Israel? How can an Arab ruler stand by America against Libya, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and South Yemen?'

Qadhafi pointed out the irony of the situ-►



The carnage of Shatila camp, Beirut, where thousands were massacred in cold blood.

► ation: 'Some of you have not been able to come to Libya today because of being afraid of your own government, while being able to go to the Israelis . . . going to occupied Palestine, which is under the Zionist flag, while going to Libya is wrong. We are hearing these false arguments, especially from Kuwaiti newspapers, radios and officials, and from leftists and rightists in the Gulf region.'

Filling the jails

The Libyan leader argued forcibly that realities in the Arab region were distorted by servile media and corrupt regimes, concerned only with ensuring their survival, regardless of how little they actually serve the Arab people. When they could not find a diversionary war around which to mobilise support for the regime, Arab rulers turned to oppressing their own people, denying them freedom of speech, filling their jails with progressives and patriots, and bringing in American 'advisers' to protect their regimes.

Such actions might prolong the survival of the regimes in question, but in the meantime the whole Arab nation was being challenged for its very survival and existence. The threat, Qadhafi stressed, did not come from the oppressed Arab people, but from the continuing military and territorial ambitions of the Zionist settlers in Palestine, and the growing military presence of the United States. Both Israel and America were joined in a single task to exercise influence and control over the Arab region, and to deny the Arab nation its cherished desire for political

and economic freedom, and the acquisition of modern technology and progress.

The Libyan leader viewed Israel as 'the death wagon marching on the Arab nation'. Recalling events over several decades, first in Palestine and more recently in Lebanon, and the fall of Egypt into the Zionist sphere of influence, Qadhafi warned that Libya and Syria now faced the prospect of becoming targets of the Zionist war machine.

'Prove me wrong'

The seriousness of the situation called for immediate action, and forced the Libyan leader to call the Arab opposition groups together, despite the fact that they had failed the Arab nation in recent months. He admitted, 'You might argue that if everything has been burnt in Beirut, what is the meaning of this invitation and call? I agree this is a complete contradiction.' Nevertheless, he went on, 'We are in a very critical situation which just precedes total death and destruction in the Arab nation. This particular reason allowed me to call on the forces which I consider burnt and dead.'

Muammar Qadhafi continued, 'I wish you oppose me and say my analysis is wrong and my argument is not correct. But should you say so, prove that you are still alive and capable of action. Show me you have the power to rescue the Arab nation. I would like to be the loser in this challenge, because my defeat is a salvation of the Arab nation, and evidence that the Arab opposition is not dead.'

The task of the Arab opposition was to

turn the tide of events; to pull Egypt back from the Camp David accords, to force the Arab regimes to annul the Fez summit resolutions, begin mobilisation to confront the Zionist threat, and to stop the spread of American military, political and economic control over the region.

Civil disobedience

The Libyan leader called for a massive campaign of civil disobedience throughout the Arab world as an expression of the real feelings of the Arab people and their revulsion at the policies adopted by their regimes. Arab regimes would fall, and the dignity and steadfastness of the Arab nation be restored once again.

'When you return to your countries,' he said, 'we should start to hear of strikes, demonstrations, sit-ins, rebellion, civilian mutiny, and the widening base of opposition.'

'I would like to hear that Philip Habib's visit has been cancelled because airport workers declined to refuel his plane or bring the mobile steps,' he said. He hoped to see 'this president or that king or prince push the aircraft steps to Habib's plane and refuel it, while offering him coffee and food, and welcoming him at his residence because hotel employees had gone on strike.'

However, the Libyan leader stressed that the opposition groups had to decide their own tactics. 'I have not at any time proposed a programme of action for you to adopt,' he pointed out. It was their task 'to draw up a programme of action to rescue the Arab nation'. To fail in this mission would be 'a scandal'.

THE LIBYAN leader Muammer Qadhafi arrived back in the Jamahiriya's capital, Tripoli, on 24th January at the end of a seven day visit to Eastern Europe, during which he held important talks with the leaders of Bulgaria and Romania. The tour was the latest which the Libyan leader has undertaken since the outbreak of the Lebanon war last June, and provided Muammer Qadhafi and other high-ranking Libyan Secretaries with the opportunity to review current world issues and evaluate the views of two important Eastern bloc countries on such matters as conflict in the Middle East and moves towards nuclear arms reductions and disarmament.

In two major speeches, the Libyan leader outlined clearly the Jamahiriya's position, warning that the Arab nation could not place any trust in seeking a peaceful solution to the Palestine question when it was under frequent and repeated military aggression by Israel. At the same time, Libya was committed to supporting all efforts to secure nuclear disarmament between the two super-powers and their allies in Europe, and extending the process to include the Mediterranean region, which Qadhafi wants designated as a 'zone of peace' from which all foreign military bases and fleets will be prohibited.

The visit came at a time when the Jamahiriya is also engaged in efforts to strengthen Libya's ties with Western Europe, and was clearly intended to emphasise Tripoli's commitment to a policy of positive non-alignment between East and West, which calls for active and friendly relations with other countries regardless of the ideological differences.

The importance of the two visits was underlined by the presence with the Libyan leader of a number of high-ranking Secretaries from the Jamahiriya. These included Abdulati Obeidi (Foreign Liaison), Musa Abu Freiwa (Economy and Light Industry), Abu Zaid Omar Dourda (Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform), and (Secretary of the General People's Committee) Jadallah Azzouzi al Talhi. Each of these men has held various key positions in the Jamahiriya over a period of many years, and has broad experience of Libya's economic and political affairs.

The Libyan leader's visits come on the eve of the resumption of disarmament talks in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States, and it was evident that the nuclear arms race is an issue which is of paramount concern to both the Jamahiriya and the Bulgarian and Romanian governments.

Insanity

In his speech to a banquet in his honour given by Bulgaria's President Zhivkov, the Libyan leader told his hosts that 'despite our different ideologies', both countries were committed to many common goals, and both were threatened by a common enemy. Those seeking to 'defend human civilisation and world peace'



Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi is welcomed at Sofia airport by President Todor Zhivkov.

Disarmament and peace are Libya's priorities

ON THE eve of the latest Geneva talks on disarmament, the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi embarked on a week-long tour of Bulgaria and Romania. He called for closer co-operation between Africa and the European peace movement, and appealed to Jews to join the struggle against Zionism. Louis Eaks has been monitoring the various speeches and communiques in Sofia and Bucharest, and provides this report.

were challenged by what Qadhafi described as 'imperialism's insanity'.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the Libyan leader's visit to Bulgaria the two countries expressed 'deep concern regarding the dangerous deterioration of the international situation' and the 'escalating danger to world peace posed by the aggressive policy of colonialist forces'.

'The most important problem facing mankind is disarmament and averting the disaster of a nuclear holocaust,' the two leaders stressed. They condemned 'the stance adopted by imperialist forces',

which they said was 'confronting detente, escalating the arms race, using force in international relations and interfering in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries'.

Both Libya and Bulgaria were united in their opposition 'to the plans of the Atlantic Alliance (NATO) for the development of new medium-range US missiles in Western Europe', and both welcomed 'the positive initiatives' of the 5th January political communique issued by the Warsaw Pact member countries, which proposed a non-aggression treaty between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries.

Libya's call for the Mediterranean Basin to be transformed into 'a zone of peace' from which 'all foreign military bases' would be barred, was accepted by both countries, said the communique.

Disarmament was a theme to which the Libyan leader returned when he rose to speak at a banquet in his honour given in Romania by President Ceausescu. Muammer Qadhafi pointed to the failure of detente, disarmament and nuclear arms limitation efforts, and warned: 'What we are now witnessing is an arms race and the development of weapons of mass destruction. The policy of detente and disarmament has been buried under the medium-range nuclear missile bases that are currently being deployed in Central Europe.'

African targets

The nuclear weapons build-up in Europe had direct implications for Libya and North Africa, Qadhafi declared. 'These ►



Quaker protester at women's demonstration at Greenham Common Airbase, planned site for cruise missile bases: the peace movement is rapidly gaining support and gathering momentum.

► American missile bases have spread, and are now directed against North Africa. Bases established in Southern Italy are, in fact, directed against North Africa,' he said.

The Libyan leader went on: 'In future, we might hear of attempts to establish missile bases on Mediterranean islands very close to the shores of Africa.'

The Jamahiriya welcomed and supported the European peace movement, said Muammer Qadhafi. 'The positive stance to counter such moves is an

expansion of the European peace movement to include Africa. Libya will support strongly the Italian peace movement's opposition to the establishment of such nuclear missile bases. It will also support equally the new alternative peace movement in Western Europe,' he declared.

In the Libyan-Romanian communique emphasis was placed on linkage between the arms race, the misappropriation of the world's economic resources, and the economic and social problems facing the developing nations.

'Deep concern' by both Libya and Romania was expressed 'for the arms race and the earmarking of massive human, material and financial resources for military purposes', which they said created 'a heavy burden on peoples and a constant threat to world peace and security'.

'Peace, security and co-operation between nations' would be advanced 'by halting the arms race and instituting effective measures for disarmament (especially nuclear disarmament)', which both countries viewed as 'a basic condition for guaranteeing world stability, reducing tension and encouraging the developing of general international relations'.

Romania and Libya joined in calling for 'a halt to the arms race, the production and development of nuclear weapons, and the production of other weapons (especially those of mass destruction)'. Only if 'the principle sources of confrontation and war' were eliminated would the peoples of the world be freed from 'the heavy burden of military expenditure', which in turn would 'improve the world's political climate, speeding up economic and social development and increasing the prosperity of all peoples'.

Both sides wanted direct talks between the Warsaw Pact and NATO on 'freezing military spending so that available funds may be used for economic and social development in these countries, and to bolster the efforts of the developing countries seeking progress'.

● continued on page 16

Muammer Qadhafi's tour of Bulgaria and Romania

Monday 17th January:

□ Muammer Qadhafi arrives in Sofia at the head of a high-ranking Libyan delegation.

□ Official talks open between Muammer Qadhafi and Bulgarian President Zhivkov, attended by the Secretary of the General People's Committee, the Secretaries for Foreign Liaison, Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform, and Economy and Light Industry.

□ President Zhivkov hosts a banquet in honour of the Libyan leader.

Tuesday 18th January:

□ Muammer Qadhafi and President Zhivkov meet for a one hour closed meeting.

Wednesday 19th January:

□ The Libyan leader and the Bulgarian President attend a meeting of the Economic Committee for Technical Co-operation. The Libyan group includes the Secretaries for Economy and Light Industry, and Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform, and the Secretary of the General People's Committee.

□ Muammer Qadhafi arrives in Varna with President Zhivkov.

Friday 21st January:

□ Muammer Qadhafi and President Zhivkov attend the signing of a long term co-operation agreement between the Jamahiriya and Bulgaria.

□ The Secretary for Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform attends ceremonies for the signing of two agreements covering Agricultural Co-operation and Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation.

□ The Libyan leader departs from Bulgaria and arrives in Romania.

□ Muammer Qadhafi opens talks with President Ceausescu, attended by the Secretary of the General People's Committee, and the Secretaries for Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform, Economy and Light Industry, and Foreign Liaison.

□ The Libyan leader and the Romanian President hold closed talks.

□ Muammer Qadhafi holds talks on Muslim affairs in Romania, with the Mufti of Rousse City.

□ President Ceausescu hosts a banquet in honour of the Libyan leader.

Saturday 22nd January:

□ In a series of morning engagements the Libyan leader is received by the Mayor of Bucharest, attends a ceremony to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visits to the Institute of Nuclear Physics.

Sunday 23rd January:

□ The Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Secretary holds talks with the Romanian Foreign Minister, while the Secretary of the General People's Committee meets with Romania's Foreign Trade Secretary.

Monday 24th January:

□ The Libyan leader and Romanian President sign a comprehensive long-term co-operation agreement.

□ The Secretary of the General People's Committee and the Romanian Prime Minister sign an economic and technical co-operation agreement.

□ The Libyan leader departs Romania, and arrives back in Tripoli.

The hidden truth about Libya

POLITICAL, SOCIAL and economic developments in revolutionary Libya have been warmly applauded in recent despatches from a *Reuter* correspondent in Tripoli, offering a welcome contrast with the usual image of the Jamahiriya projected by western journalists intent on denigrating the country and its leadership.

'More than 13 years after he and other young army officers overthrew King Idris in a bloodless coup, Colonel Qadhafi appears to enjoy considerable popularity and relative stability at home,' declared *Reuters* on 12th January, belying western press reports in November alleging that Muammer Qadhafi had narrowly missed assassination by army officers on his return from a recent visit to Peking. *Reuter* cites western diplomats in the Libyan capital as attributing Colonel Qadhafi's success to his 'charisma and populist policies', and saying that 'most older Libyans credit the colonel with giving them a share of the nation's vast oil wealth — by way of a higher standard of living — while the younger generation respects his fierce Arab nationalism'.

The despatch went on to contrast the revolutionary period with the country's poverty, and the corruption of its regime, prior to 1969. 'According to western statistics, it was among the poorest countries in the world in the 1950s, exporting only Esparto grass and scrap metals.' The discovery of oil might have made a difference, but 'under the monarchy the oil industry was separated from the rest of the economy, and run almost exclusively by foreigners'. *Reuter* added: 'According to western historians, corruption thrived and the vast majority of Libyans gained nothing from the oil wealth.'

Dramatic

After the 1969 Revolution, however, the new authorities 'closed down foreign military bases and gradually brought the oil industry under majority state control'. The results have been dramatic. Since the Revolution, oil revenues have 'vastly improved Libyans' standard of living,' said *Reuter*, adding that 'Tripoli is amongst the cleanest Third World capitals, and its roads and buildings among the most impressive'. The Jamahiriya is now 'among the richest Third World countries. With a population of only 3.5 million, despite its vast size, it is likely to earn some 15 billion dollars from oil this year, according to western diplomats.'

The *Reuter* despatch highlights the rapid development of education, noting that '60 per cent of Libyans were illiterate in 1973, but new schools have now reduced the figure to around 30 per cent. The illiteracy figure for women alone was 90 per cent in 1973, and less than 50 per cent now'.



Great advances in education

THE WESTERN press, encouraged by governments hostile to the ideals of the Al Fateh Revolution, habitually portrays the Libyan Jamahiriya and its revolutionary leadership in a negative light. It was therefore no surprise that two recent special reports from a *Reuter* news agency correspondent in Tripoli, that offered a sober and realistic appraisal of developments in Libya, were totally ignored by all the major western newspapers.

Reuter also commented positively on the *Jamahiri* system of direct democracy, which allows all Libyans to determine their own future directly by participating in debates at their local people's congresses. Describing a session of a basic people's congress in Tripoli, attended by Muammer Qadhafi, *Reuter* said that 'the debate among local citizens, including veiled women, was obviously spontaneous and included criticism of the [country's] housing policy during the colonel's presence'.

In a second despatch from the Libyan

capital, dated 13th January, *Reuter* stressed that the Jamahiriya was overcoming the problems posed by the world oil glut, and highlighted the country's efforts to diversify its economy by the expansion of industry and agriculture. The slump in the world's oil markets, said *Reuter*, 'reduced Libya's oil revenue from 22.5 billion dollars to 15.6 billion in 1981, and a likely total of around 11 billion dollars for 1982'. There were some inevitable cash flow problems, although these are now being resolved rapidly. *Reuter* quotes western diplomats in Tripoli as saying that 'Libya's debts peaked at over 10 billion dollars in 1981, but most of these were paid back as the oil slump eased towards the end of last year'.

Revenues this year, however, are likely to rise to 'between 14 and 15 billion dollars', said *Reuter*, adding that overall, the Jamahiriya 'is steering a steady economic course and will probably have paid off huge foreign debts by the end of the spring'. The economy faced 'a quiet but stable 1983'.

Impact

Reuter confirmed that January's decision of the US multinational Mobil oil company to cease its Libyan operations will have virtually no impact on the Jamahiriya's oil industry. It noted that Mobil's local subsidiary, Mobil Libya Ltd, was producing only around 60,000 barrels per day towards the end of last year, and that this was less than five per cent of total Libyan output of at least 1.4 million barrels per day.

The biggest producer in the Jamahiriya is the Oasis consortium, which was producing around 700,000 barrels per day towards the end of last year. It is 59.2 per cent owned by the Libyan National Oil Company (LNOC), with Marathon and Conoco holding 16.3 per cent stakes each and Amerada Hess, another US firm, holding an 8.2 per cent share. The other major producers are Occidental of Libya and Agip Libya, in both of which LNOC also has majority holdings.

Although oil revenues account for 99 per cent of Libyan exports, said *Reuter*, the country 'has begun investing billions of dollars in other areas, particularly agriculture and other industries'. The report noted that the 1981-85 development plan calls for total investments of \$62.5 billion, almost all in the non-oil sectors, and especially industry and agriculture.

In an important message for businessmen in the industrialised countries, *Reuter* stressed that the long term outlook for the Jamahiriya remains bright, citing the view of western diplomats in Tripoli that 'with diversified investment projects beginning to pay off, Libya was likely to remain one of the biggest markets for construction work.'

Trade and Economic agreements signed

BEHIND THE scenes and the public speeches, the Libyan delegation was involved in a series of top-level talks with their East European counterparts from which various agreements were reached, according to reports from the Jamahiriya News Agency, JANA.

In Bulgaria, the Libyan leader and President Zhivkov signed what was described as 'a comprehensive, long-term co-operation programme', which JANA said would now go before the Basic People's Congresses in Libya for debate and ratification. It covered areas of political agreement, and in the field of trade ties referred to increased co-operation in the fields of 'science, culture, education, health, journalism, radio, television, cinema, sports, tourism and other areas'.

In the Bulgarian city of Varna, the Jamahiriya's Secretary of Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform, Abu Zeid Omar Dourda, signed two agreements. The first was on the development of agricultural co-operation, and stipulated increasing co-operation in agriculture, scientific research, food industries, animal production, dams, water resources and fruit trees. A joint sub-committee will meet twice yearly.

The second agreement followed a meeting of the Joint Committee on economic, scientific and technical co-operation, and called for growing co-operation in these fields, and referred to the development of the services of communications especially direct telephone communication.

Earlier in Varna a banking agreement was signed between the two countries.

Closer economic links are also expected to follow talks in Romania, where Muammer Qadhafi and President Ceausescu signed a 'long term comprehensive programme', which covered co-operation in agriculture, planning, design, construction, industry, oil, mining, trade exchange, banking, foreign investment, and scientific and technical fields. This programme will also be placed before the Basic People's Congresses in Libya for ratification.

Some elaboration was given in the Libyan-Romanian joint communique, which said both countries were committed to increasing co-operation in construction, agriculture, geological research, petro-chemicals, communications, and other fields of common interest.

Both countries agreed 'to carrying out joint ventures in Third World countries', and stressed the importance of completing final procedures for an agreement to eliminate double taxation, a work-force agreement and an agreement to encourage and support the investment of joint capital.

● *continued from page 14*

Summit

Turning to the wider issue of the world's economy, both leaders stressed their commitment to the establishment of a new international economic order. Fresh initiatives for the North-South dialogue were urged. They noted that 'the expansion and strengthening of economic co-operation among developing countries and the non-aligned countries has a particular importance'. Jointly, Muammer Qadhafi and President Ceausescu called for a summit conference of these countries 'to discuss the complex problems of backwardness and the new world economic order'.

Earlier, speaking at the banquet in Bucharest, Muammer Qadhafi said that if the Western imperialist countries were intent on blocking progress in the North-South dialogue, then 'we have to think seriously of ways to solve these economic problems without depending on imperialism being a party to these efforts'. This has been, of course, the central theme to the Jamahiriya's call for the OAU to become the vehicle for the formation of an economic programme based on closer economic co-operation between the African states, with greater marketing and purchasing within the continent rather than with the developed, former colonialist, powers.

Qadhafi told his Romanian hosts: 'The world economic situation has grown to dangerous proportions. Tens of millions of people are out of work in capitalist countries, while the debts of the developing countries have reached hundreds of billions of dollars.' He warned, 'Many of these countries are on the brink of declaring their bankruptcy and inability to pay back their debts.'

His call for Romania and Libya to work together in seeking to assist the developing nations was later covered in a joint communique, which disclosed that the two leaders had agreed to carry out 'joint ventures in Third World countries'. This suggests a partnership might be created for Libyan capital and Romanian expertise and goods for development projects in Third World countries.

Both speeches and communiques throughout the one week tour, from hosts and visitors alike, drew attention to the gloomy prospects for world peace. The nuclear threat and the world economic crisis were only two major aspects raised by the Libyan leader during his talks in Sofia and Bucharest. In addition, Muammer Qadhafi turned his attention to problems closer to home, such as the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon, and the continuing threat to the Palestinians.

Concessions spurned

In Bucharest, the Libyan leader warned against believing that any simple political solution could be found to end the conflict between the Zionists and the Arab nation. He reminded his hosts that the Arabs

were not only facing the threat of Israeli aggressions, but this existed because of support which the Zionists receive from the United States. Concessions had come from the Arab side (although Libya rejected this path), but these had been spurned by the Zionists.

'Despite all the concessions given by the Arabs, reaching the level of humiliation at the Fez summit, which Libya did not attend, imperialism and Zionism did not find these humiliating concessions sufficient and continued their aggressions towards the Arab nation,' he said at the Sofia banquet.

'The Arabs are faced with no choice but to face force with force,' he argued. 'We cannot possibly accept surrender or extinction.'

It was a theme to which he returned when he spoke at the banquet in Bucharest, where his host is the only country in the Eastern Bloc which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel. Muammer Qadhafi referred to this when he said: 'We appreciate Romania's justifications in maintaining relations with so-called Israel, in the hope that this may provide a means for understanding the Israelis and deterring their aggression in the Middle East.' Yet, he added, despite Romania's position, 'direct relations with Israel have not deterred it from committing barbaric massacres unprecedented throughout the ages'.

'Peace is still seriously threatened by Zionist action,' he warned.

Appeal to Jews

Earlier in his speech, Muammer Qadhafi took the opportunity to restate the Libyan view of Zionism. He explained, 'When we speak of Zionism, we Arabs differentiate between Zionism and Judaism. The Jews and Arabs are equal in the sense that they are both victims of Zionism. Zionism is the mutual enemy of the Arabs, Jews and other peoples. Therefore, the Arabs, Jews and all other peace-loving peoples are called upon to form an alliance against Zionism. Its destruction would mean the Jews' salvation from its control.'

He added, 'The whole world knows that Zionism is the antithesis of peace.'

Qadhafi recalled, 'For thousands of years, the Jews lived with the Arabs in the Middle East without enmity. But the new post-World War II phenomenon that emerged in the Middle East in the form of the so-called Zionist state and the appearance of Zionism in the region, has brought the world to the brink of war.'

Both Bulgaria and Romania endorsed Libya's concern for the increasing tensions in Africa and Central America, and deplored the threat posed increasingly by the racist white regime in South Africa to her independent African neighbours, and the continued occupation of Namibia. In Central America, the Libyan-Bulgarian communique specified support for Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada against interference in their internal affairs by the United States.

EIGHT ARAB countries, including the Libyan Jamahiriya, are examining sources of alternative energy, aware that within the next fifty years their existing reserves of oil will be exhausted. To emphasise the importance of research and development in the energy field, the Jamahiriya has just hosted a major seminar at which Libyan Energy Secretary Abdul Majid al Qu'oud stressed: 'The Arabs have been the precursors in the modern sciences, yet more than at any other time they are now in need of scientific research into the sources of alternative and renewable energy, because Arab petroleum energy is going to be exhausted within the next forty to fifty years.' Despite this fact, Mr al Qu'oud was confident of the future, since, as he observed, 'the Arab nation has alternative and renewable energy sources'.

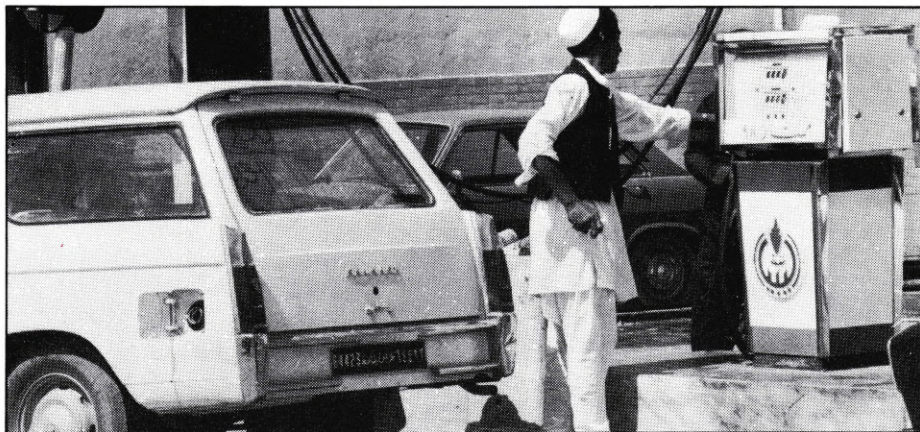
The three-day seminar, which ended on 24th January, was organised by the Jamahiriya's Union of Engineers jointly with the Arab Engineers Union, with delegates attending from a wide range of Arab states including Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, South Yemen, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), as well as from Libya itself.

The Jamahiriya's Energy Secretary hoped that the seminar would contribute to 'the Arabs' scientific awakening' and stimulate 'research into alternative energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy and geothermal and other sources of power'.

Evidence of what he described as the 'priority to technical education and training, scientific research, the development of science and the adoption of advanced scientific methods' given by the Jamahiriya's planners and education system, was seen by delegates when they visited the Engineering Faculty of Al Fateh University on the outskirts of Tripoli. Staged to coincide with the seminar, AFU's exhibition on Sources of Renewable and Alternative Energy included a portable air dryer driven by solar energy, an overhead solar dryer for conserving vegetables, and two solar powered machines for water desalination and electricity generation.

Participants in the exhibition included the Energy Secretariat, the Engineering Faculty of AFU, the Jamahiriya's National Science Research Council, the Libyan Science Society and several international specialist companies.

The climatic conditions of the Arab region make solar energy an obvious alternative for the future, and back at the seminar, it was the subject of several research papers. These included its application in heating air to dry vegetables and fruits for domestic purposes. The process was described as 'hygienic and economic' and capable of satisfying the demands of most developing countries for perishable fruits and vegetables, meat and fish. Other uses for solar energy



After the oil runs out

EXPERTS IN alternative technology sources have recently completed a four day seminar in Tripoli, hosted by the Union of Libyan Engineers. With Arab oil reserves expected to be exhausted within fifty years, a special correspondent looks at their recommendations.

which were examined included the supply of domestic hot water, and new commercial ideas on air heating. Research papers were given on the use of solar energy in housing, and discussed the use of the appropriate building materials, construction methods and designs that would best generate and conserve this form of energy.

The seminar also discussed the utilisation of wind power in the Jamahiriya, and examined the prospects for its use in generating electrical power for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

By the end of the seminar, at which 250 researchers participated, and 52 research papers had been delivered, a series of practical proposals and recommendations had been drawn up and agreed.

Firstly, there was agreement on the need to conserve oil resources in the Arab world by directing production and consumption, and the possibility of using new and alternative sources of energy, 'especially in improving rates of lifting oil from wells', according to JANA.

Moreover, the seminar called for closer Arab co-operation in the energy field, and the developing of alternative energy sources. Proposals included co-operation in collecting and analysing data 'through comprehensive and continuous survey and feasibility studies'; an energy data and information centre was recommended. The need was stressed for the creation of local industries to process and manufacture equipment and materials

applicable to energy saving and alternative energy sources.

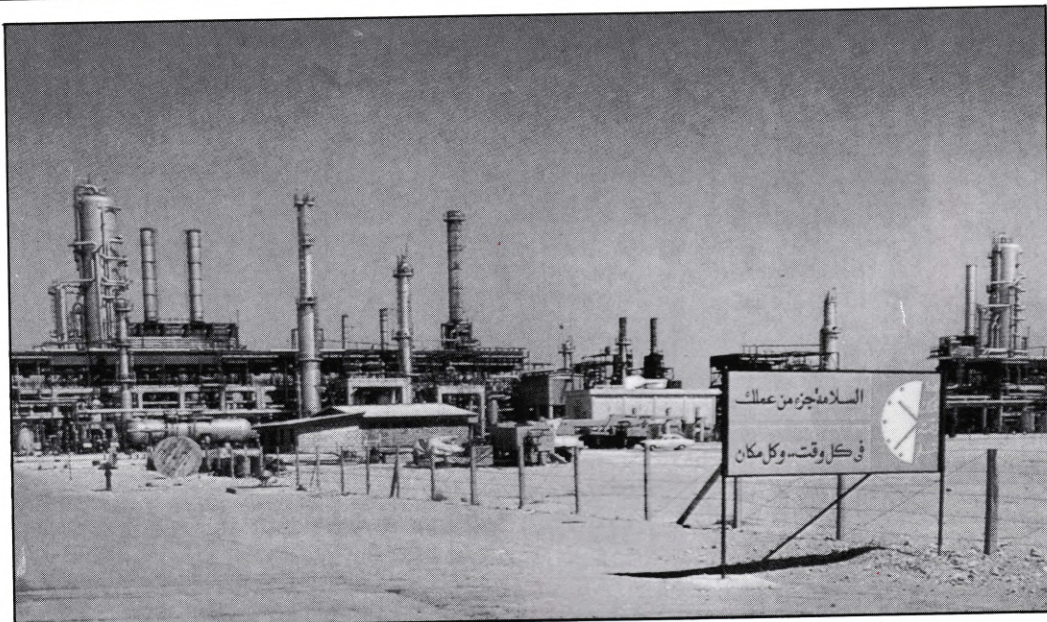
Greater co-ordination between present and future researches was suggested, and more exchange of expertise to avoid repetition of work in different Arab states. Joint Arab ventures in various energy applications were proposed, and support advocated for alternative energy plans and programmes to be funded from existing oil revenues.

Nor did the seminar ignore the crucial issue of conservation. Its recommendations point to growing awareness of the waste of energy in many oil producing states, where there is sometimes a tendency to take power supplies for granted regardless of the cost. The seminar called for a programme through the mass media to educate and alert people on matters related to energy policy, consumption and conservation.

On nuclear energy, the Arab states were urged to seek the aid of friendly countries, both developed and developing, in producing heavy water and various nuclear fuels. The seminar stressed the need for an integrated nuclear energy policy in the Arab region, and proposed the establishment of an Arab Agency for Nuclear Energy and an Arab Bank of Energy to finance nuclear energy projects in any Arab country 'including the exploration of uranium and other raw nuclear materials', JANA reported.

Wind energy, the seminar recommended, should be adopted in those Arab countries where it was feasible to produce electricity and pump water, whether in small projects or large systems of windmills and wind turbines. Feasibility studies into the production of energy from waves and water were recommended for coastal Arab states. Meanwhile, 'a lesser polluted environment' was predicted through the application of solar and biological energy.

Geothermal energy should also be considered as being of significant importance, the seminar said. It called for the collection of data and geological surveys in each Arab country of local suitable sites at which production of this form of energy would be feasible.



The Jamahiriya's refineries provide for Libyan control.

Mobil bows to Reagan

THE GIANT US-based multinational Mobil oil company has declared its intention of pulling out of the Jamahiriya, in deference to pressure from the Reagan administration.

Mobil has been in Libya since 1955, and had a 34 per cent stake in a concession operated jointly with the Jamahiriya's Libyan National Oil Company (LNOC), which had a 51 per cent share, and West Germany's Veba Oil (15 per cent). Mobil's departure will have almost no impact on the Libyan oil industry. The Mobil-LNOC-Veba partnership was producing only about 60,000 barrels of oil per day, out of a total Libyan output in recent weeks of 1.7 million barrels per day.

Mobil has admitted that a major factor in its decision to pull out was its inability to accept the Jamahiriya's efforts to secure a fair price for its most valuable national resource. Announcing its decision, Mobil berated Libya for 'unilaterally manipulating oil prices, taxes and royalties over a period of years' to an extent that had eaten into the multinational's profit margins. On 14th January, however, *Middle East Economic Digest* disclosed that Veba Oil has confirmed that it has 'no intention' of following in Mobil's footsteps, belying the US firm's contention that the Mobil-Veba-LNOC concession was unprofitable.

Mobil becomes the second US oil multinational to pull out of Libya over the past year. In December 1981 Exxon declared that it was to cease operations in the Jamahiriya, and sold its assets in the country for \$95 million. At the same time, Mobil

had announced that it was considering following suit. Initially it set a 13th July 1982 deadline for a 'notice of surrender' of its concession, but this was later withdrawn as the company sought to negotiate more favourable profit arrangements. On 7th January *Middle East Economic Digest* cited 'sources close to the US firm' as saying that Mobil 'would have stayed in Libya if it could have improved its terms'.

Mobil is now engaged in negotiations for the sale of its assets in Libya. The firm has refused to disclose their value, but they are thought to be less than those of Exxon. There have been reports that a Filipino group, Landoil Resources Corporation, is interested in buying out Mobil. Other reports, however, suggest that Mobil's former partner, Veba Oil, wants to enlarge its stake by taking over Mobil's share.

Observers believe that Mobil's withdrawal was heavily influenced by the Reagan administration's efforts to sabotage the Libyan economy. Amid wild and unsubstantiated allegations claiming that the Jamahiriya had sent 'hit squads' to assassinate the US President, Washington in December 1981 called 'on all Americans resident in Libya to leave, banned travel to the Jamahiriya by US citizens, and urged all US companies to pull out of the country. Later, in March last year, Reagan imposed a ban on the import of Libyan oil into the United States, and prohibited the sale to Libya of US oil industry technology. It was amid the hit squad hysteria in Washington in late 1981 that Exxon and Mobil announced their intention of withdrawing from the Jamahiriya.

A US government hand in the Mobil move was indicated by the

New York Times on 5th January, which quoted William Pope, a Libyan desk officer at the State Department, as saying that he would 'prefer not to comment' on Mobil's announcement. The paper also quoted a Mobil spokesman, Michael Gross, as saying that he was 'not in a position to confirm' whether Mobil had consulted the State Department before withdrawing.

Other American oil companies operating in the Jamahiriya in joint ventures with LNOC have resisted pressures from the US administration. There have been no suggestions that Occidental and the Oasis Group, which includes Conoco, Marathon Oil and Amerada Hess, are contemplating any pull-out.

One result of the withdrawals by Exxon and Mobil will be an enhanced role for European concerns in the Libyan oil industry. Agip, the Italian state oil company, and Elf-Aquitaine of France, both operate large concessions, in partnership with LNOC. Europe's role will be even greater if Veba Oil does buy out the Mobil concession.

Britain to equip hotels

HOTELS UNDER construction in Misrata and Tobruk by South Korea's Samsung Construction Company are to be equipped and furnished by Birmingham-based Glynwed Group Services, under contracts worth \$565,000.

The company has a \$500,000 order as subcontractors to supply equipment, including lockers, workshop equipment, mechanical tools for on-site engineers,

cinema sound equipment and projectors, and medical equipment.

In a separate contract, worth \$65,000, the firm will supply a public address system for the Tobruk hotel. Glynwed recently completed delivery of a similar system, of comparable value, for the Misrata hotel.

More than 95 per cent of Glynwed's order will come from British suppliers. One of the largest will be the Rediffusion group, which will provide closed-circuit television and a public address system, eight internal security cameras and a three-tape programmable audiovisual system.

Samsung Construction Company's contract for the two hotels' construction, worth \$66 million, and awarded by the Jamahiriya's Social Security Secretariat, was announced in May 1981. The two hotels are of identical design, and both were for completion in two years. Each will have six storeys and a floor area of 18,000 square metres, and each will include a 230-seat theatre, a two-storey studio building, and housing for staff. The Misrata development is nearly completed, and the foundations for the Tobruk hotel have been laid. Both are scheduled for opening by the end of the year.

Czechoslovakian steel contract

THE DOPRASTAV construction firm of Czechoslovakia is to build roads and other installations worth LD 17 million at the integrated steel works under construction at the coastal town of Misrata, Czechoslovakia radio disclosed on 15th December. The report said that by February 1976 the firm will complete more than thirty kilometres of roads, twenty-five kilometres of trenches and tunnels for cables, a 35,000 square metre car park, 115,000 square metres of pavements and a fifty kilometre sewerage system with eighteen pumping stations, to cater for the 30,000 residents of a new town to house steelworkers and their families.

Doprastav is already involved in the Misrata steel project, having started work in January 1981 on the construction of a fifty kilometre road linking the plant with limestone and dolomite quarries at Sadidah, to the south. The project includes a flyover linking the road with the main Libyan coastal highway. Design and construction supervision is by Britain's W S Atkins, under a contract awarded in 1977, and completion is scheduled for next August.

The Misrata steelworks is the largest single project in the Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85

development plan. The \$3.3 billion first phase for completion in 1985, provides for an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes. A second stage will raise capacity to five million tonnes, and a final stage will give a seven million tonnes capacity by the year 2005.

New roads opened

THE LATEST in a series of new Libyan roads was officially opened in Marzuq municipality on 29th December, in a ceremony attended by Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee. The longest of the new routes stretches 150 kilometres, linking Umm al Aranib and Gatrun. The two others extend eighty kilometres, linking Traghin and Zuwaylah, via Umm al Aranib, and 77 kilometres, between Zuwaylah and Tmissa.

Two days earlier, Mr Talhi had officially inaugurated two major new road links in the southern municipalities of Sebha and Shatta, one of sixty kilometres, an agricultural route, and the other a major trunk road extending 360 kilometres from Sebha to the town of Waddan.

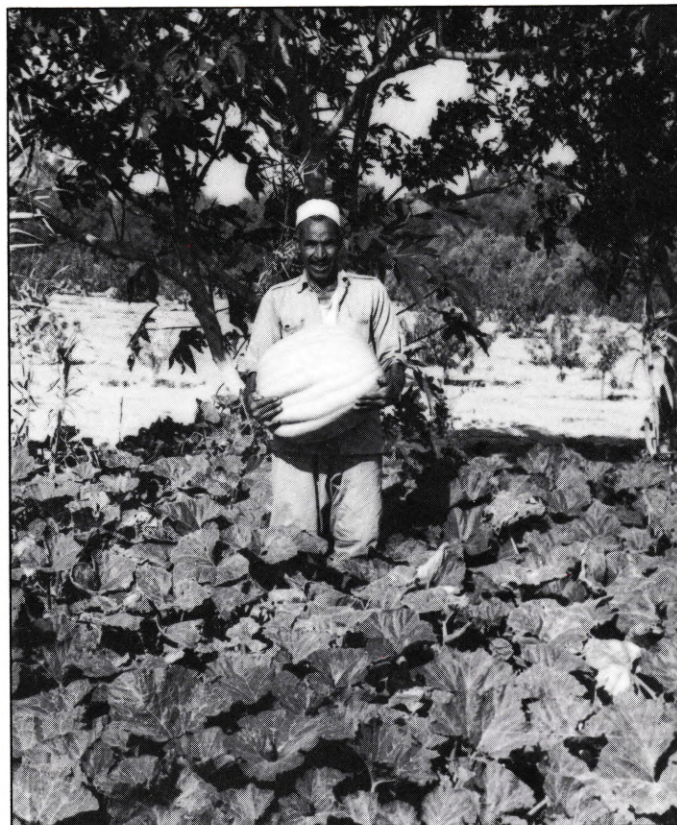
The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion development plan provides for the construction of 4,100 kilometres of new roads, and also for the completion of 2,400 kilometres in projects carried over from the 1976-80 plan. Spending on transport and communications in the current plan stands at LD 2.1 billion, of which a large proportion will be invested in road construction.

Rio reports aircraft negotiations

NEGOTIATIONS ARE under way between Libya and Brazil for the supply of aircraft worth \$150 million, the Rio de Janeiro daily *Gazeta Mercantil* has disclosed.

The paper cites the state-owned aircraft concern Embraer as saying that the Jamahiriya is intested in buying the Xingu, an executive nine-seat turboprop, and in the maritime version of the Bandeirante, a larger turboprop. Both aircraft cost about \$1.5 million. The Jamahiriya has reportedly also expressed interest in a new version of the Tuca, a two-seat light aircraft trainer, on which Embraer is to start production in 1984.

Embraer is disclosing no details of the reported negotiations, and has denied that a



Agricultural expansion is being actively encouraged to meet the goal of self sufficiency

team from the Jamahiriya, headed by Chief of the Airforce Command Awad Idris, was recently in Brazil for talks on the aircraft order.

The *Gazeta Mercantil* added that Brazil, whose oil imports account for half its total import bill, would be interested in payment for the aircraft in oil.

Karabolli project presses ahead

TO MEET the goal of self-sufficiency in food by the turn of the century, the Libyan Jamahiriya is devoting strenuous efforts to agricultural expansion. The 1981-85 development plan allocates \$10.1 billion to agriculture, 6.2 per cent of total expenditures. The plan makes special provision for the establishment of new agri-business schemes to boost output of the high protein foods for which demand has grown rapidly in recent years, in response to rising living standards in the Jamahiriya.

Encouraging progress has been reported from one of the largest of the new schemes, at Karabolli near Tripoli. Covering 24,500 hectares, the new scheme will be divided into family farms. 900 will be of 26 ha each, of which three hectares will be irrigated and 23 ha unirrigated. A further one

hundred farms will each comprise six hectares of irrigated land, while fifty farms will each cover 10 hectares of irrigated land.

On 8th January the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced that reclamation and irrigation works had just been completed on a 200 ha area at the project.

The Karabolli scheme's output will be varied, but there will be a particular emphasis on poultry and egg production. Two poultry farms, each with a capacity of 10,000 chickens, will produce 2-2.5 million eggs per annum. The scheme will also contribute to the Jamahiriya's growing output of honey. Beehives have already been installed, and last year 2,525 kg of honey was produced.

The Karabolli scheme is organised around four villages, each with a school, a supermarket, a mosque, dispensary and tractor depot. To assure ease of transport within the project area, 219 kilometres of roads are planned.

Irrigation will depend on 120 wells, ranging in depth from 200 to 400 metres, and on 19th January JANA announced that during last year 76 of these had been drilled. It added that 84 pumping stations and a 269.6 kilometre irrigation system had also been completed.

Special training programmes have been launched for workers at the scheme. Farmers receive training in agricultural techniques, and on 19th January JANA announced that another

programme had been set up to train 'the wives and daughters of the farmers on household and traditional crafts'.

Afforestation plays an important part in the Jamahiriya's overall land development programme, and on 19th January JANA announced that workers at Karabolli had launched a forest tree planting campaign over a 40 hectare area, and were also engaged in planting a 52 hectare area with olive, pomegranate and almond trees and grape vines.

Sugar project reviewed in Addis Ababa

THE PROGRESS of the Ethiopian-Libyan sugar company was high on the agenda of talks held in Addis Ababa in January between a Libyan team, headed by Mr Taher Sialah, Chairman of the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company (LAFIC), and Ethiopian officials.

The Libyan-Ethiopian sugar company was legally established, and started operations, on 7th November 1981. Forty-nine per cent of the capital was put up by the Jamahiriya, and the rest by Ethiopia. The company's main objective is to finalise the Fincha sugar project, for which most of the investment was provided by the Jamahiriya in the form of a long-term loan.

LAFIC was set up in 1981 to manage all the Jamahiriya's direct, non-banking investments abroad. The company is capitalised at \$1.7 billion. Libya's overseas banking investments are managed by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank.

Sulphate-resistant cement production starts

A SIGNIFICANT step in the Jamahiriya's efforts to boost domestic industrial output to replace imports came on 30th December with the opening of the country's first sulphate-resistant cement production line at Benghazi's Bayan al Awal cement works. The new line's annual capacity of 270,000 tonnes, will cover current Libyan demand for this variety of cement, which resists corrosion by sulphate salts found in certain types of groundwater and building materials.

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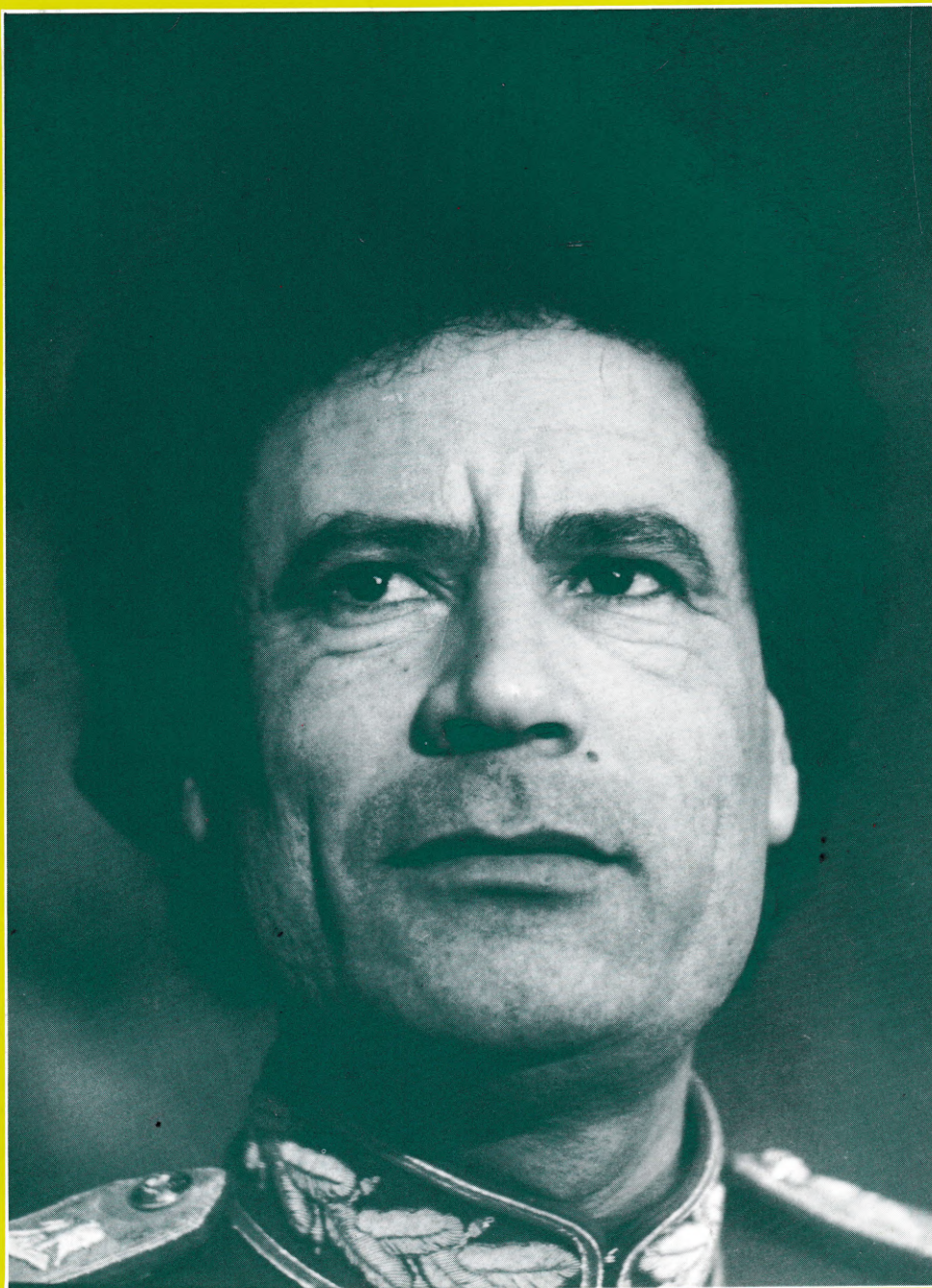
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